

I am an independent music fan, concerned about the lack of non-commercial radio available in this country as well as the news media being one sided in their coverage of political issues such as the Iraq war, the Iraq war protests, and corporate globalization, to name a few examples. Not to mention the fact that most of the radio and TV stations are owned by the same 4 companies. I am very pessimistic about the whole broadcast media ever progressing, and I believe that radio in particular has gone steadily downhill since the 1960's when the stations were owned by many companies, and played a wide variety of music. Now I would like to see more non-commercial radio stations playing non-commercial music only. Kind of like Sundance Channel and IFC does on TV.

Record labels buying ad spots on stations to play their bands songs as an announced ad is blatant payola as it is a clear case of the record label paying for radio air time and at a price that is unaffordable by independent record labels too. The current laws are deficient in addressing payola in its current practices, because they do not seem to address payola unless it is someone paying for a song to be played, and doesn't even address the other problems like songs being played in radio advertisements. Current laws should not allow copyrighted music in paid advertisements.

Voice-tracking misleads the public sometimes dangerously, as no information about emergencies that are urgent are reported to the public during these voice tracking periods and the public is uninformed that they need to take quick action to keep themselves out of danger. One case in which this happened was when there was an emergency and the authorities tried to inform the radio stations and nobody picked up the radio station's phone line, they radio station did not know so they couldn't broadcast the information and the public was oblivious to the fact that they were in danger. That is why Voice tracking should be regulated and the FCC should make it illegal.

There is hardly any local music on the radio at all anymore, and these are the artists that really need the radio air time for promotional purposes. If all programming decisions were made at the local level the local bands would get more airtime, and I think it should happen for that reason, plus local radio stations would be able to play more of what the people of the local area want to hear, because they do not have to please everyone just the locals. Stations should be made to play a certain percentage independent music and local music because they are not doing it on their own for the most part.

I would like to see more LPFM everywhere. Actually I'd like to see as many LPFM's as possible as long as they don't interfere with non-commercial radio stations' frequencies. LPFMs are about the most local radio stations you can find and I like the idea of college radio or community radio, or even neighborhood radio it helps adds diversity to our radio dials which is highly in need of. It also gives people the chance to get involved in the media and promoting of local and independent music and provides us with more stations that are not owned by big business but instead by people like us the community. It allows the community to express the public's voice and adds a variety of music and radio stations to listen to. There seems to be a lot of spectrum not in use in my community and I would like to see it used for Low Power FM.

Thank you for listening to my and everyone else's comments and confronting the issues with a public proceeding.

